

HOUSE No. 2380

By Mr. Roach of North Adams, petition of Harold Gunnason and others (members of the city council) for legislation to revise the charter of the city of North Adams. Cities.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-Nine.

AN ACT REVISING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF NORTH
ADAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 148 of the acts of 1895 is
2 hereby amended by striking out section 9, as amended,
3 and inserting in place thereof the following section:—

4 Section 9. The city council shall consist of nine
5 councilmen who shall be elected at large by the voters
6 of the city, as follows:—

7 At the biennial municipal election in the year
8 nineteen hundred and fifty-one and at each biennial
9 municipal election thereafter there shall be elected
10 nine members for a term of two years.

11 The term of all twenty-one councilmen elected in
12 the year nineteen hundred and forty-nine shall expire
13 on the first Monday of January in the year nineteen
14 hundred and fifty-two.

15 At the biennial municipal election in the year
16 nineteen hundred and fifty-one and at each biennial

17 municipal election thereafter no voter shall vote for
18 more than seven of the eleven councilmen to be
19 elected thereat for a term of two years and the number
20 having the highest number of votes shall be declared
21 elected.

22 On the second Tuesday prior to every biennial
23 municipal election the city clerk shall determine by
24 lot the order in which the names of the candidates
25 for election to the city council shall appear on the
26 ballot. The candidates shall be notified of such
27 drawing and shall be allowed to be present thereat
28 in person or by their representatives.

29 The city council shall annually, at the first meeting
30 in January, elect by ballot one of their members
31 president of the council.

1 SECTION 2. Said chapter 148 is hereby further
2 amended by striking out the last sentence of section 13
3 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence: —
4 The members of the city council shall receive the sum
5 of ten dollars for each meeting of the council attended
6 but the total amount for all meetings attended shall
7 not be in excess of five hundred and fifty dollars
8 per year.

1 SECTION 3. Said chapter 148 is hereby further
2 amended by striking out the first paragraph of sec-
3 tion 29, as amended, and inserting in place thereof
4 the following paragraph: —

5 The mayor shall have the sole power of appoint-
6 ment to all the municipal offices established by or
7 under this act, including officers and members of the
8 fire and police departments, unless herein otherwise
9 provided; he may, except as herein otherwise pro-

10 vided, remove from office, lower in rank, transfer,
11 or suspend by written order any officer or member so
12 appointed hereunder, for just cause and he shall in
13 such order specifically assign the reasons therefor.
14 Such order of removal, lowering, transfer, or sus-
15 pension shall take effect upon the filing of the same
16 with the city clerk, and the service of a copy thereof
17 upon such officer or member so removed, lowered,
18 transferred, or suspended, either personally or by
19 leaving the same at his last and usual place of residence.

1 SECTION 4. This act shall be submitted for ac-
2 ceptance to the registered voters of the city of North
3 Adams at the next regular municipal election in the
4 form of the following question, which shall be placed
5 upon the official ballot to be used at said election:—
6 “Shall an act passed by the general court in the year
7 nineteen hundred and forty-nine, entitled ‘An Act
8 revising the charter of the city of North Adams’,
9 which provides for a reduction of the number of
10 members of the city council, establishes payment
11 for the services of the members of the city council
12 and the abolishment of the approval of the city council
13 for the removal, lowering in rank, transfer or sus-
14 pension by the mayor of administrative municipal
15 officers appointed by the mayor, be accepted?” If
16 a majority of the voters voting thereon vote in the
17 affirmative in answer to said question, this act shall
18 thereupon take full effect for the nomination and
19 election of municipal officers in the year nineteen
20 hundred and fifty-one, and for all other purposes
21 it shall take full effect upon the organization of the
22 city government on the first Monday of January,
23 nineteen hundred and fifty-two.

- 10 shall remove from office those in such transfer.
- 11 to suspend by written order any officer or member so
- 12 appointed hereunder, for just cause and he shall in
- 13 such order specifically assign the reasons therefor.
- 14 such order of removal, lowering transfer or sus-
- 15 pension shall take effect upon the filing of the same
- 16 with the city clerk and the service of a copy thereof
- 17 upon such officer or member so removed, lowered,
- 18 transferred, or suspended, either personally or by
- 19 leaving the same in his last and usual place of residence.
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